

News Release

Senator Pete V. Domenici

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 8, 2000

DOMENICI: NEW MEXICO SCHOOLS AWARDED \$1.27 MILLION FOR BILINGUAL TEACHER TRAINING

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Pete Domenici today reported that three New Mexico school districts have been awarded \$1,273,098 in teacher training grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education.

The funding was provided through the Education Department's Training for All Teachers Program and was awarded to the Las Cruces Public Schools District, the Penasco Independent School District, and New Mexico Highlands University-Rio Rancho.

The purpose of the grant is to train teachers for certification in bilingual education in an effort to develop the skills necessary for teaching students with limited English proficiency. Funds under this program may be used to provide for the development of bilingual training programs in the area school districts.

"These grants will help schools prepare teachers to meet the needs of dual-language speaking students. By providing this teacher training, we will help ensure that all students have the opportunity to understand and learn on an equal basis," Domenici said.

The following Three year grants were made to New Mexico school districts:

- **\$246,000 to the Las Cruces Public School District** for its Master Teachers in the Making project, which is designed to address a critical shortage of adequately trained and certified bilingual education teachers currently in the school district.
- **\$460,350 to the Penasco Independent School District** to train approximately 80 staff members and serve more than 700 K - 12 students in the district.
- **\$566,748 to New Mexico Highlands University-Rio Rancho**, in collaboration with the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations of Ogden, Utah, to provide a wide range of support services to individuals trained in alternative language methods. An estimated 120 educational personnel, including administrators, will receive training each year. In addition, an estimated 20 parents and community members will also receive training annually.

Domenici serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee that provides funding levels for the Department of Education.